

REMARKS


The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the interview on January 10, 2006 are acknowledged with appreciation.

By this amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended and claims 5 and 6 canceled. Claims 1 and 7 now recite that the one-way valve allows inflation of the inflatable cuff, but does not allow deflation. One-way valves of various designs are well known and used for a variety of purposes. As the name suggests, the valve allows fluid flow in one direction but not in the opposite direction. The use of a one-way valve in a catheter provides significant benefits and is not disclosed in the prior art. As explained in the specification, the prevention of deflation necessitates the cutting of the lumen between the one-way valve and the inflatable cuff in order to deflate the cuff. Deflation of the cuff is necessary for removal of the catheter. However, after cutting of the conduit, the catheter may not be used again. This insures that the catheter is not reused. The use of a one-way valve in the catheter is not known in the prior art and the claims are allowable.

If any issues remain, and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

If any fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,


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